

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-08 COME-00 TRSE-00 CIAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7515

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

UNCLAS MANILA 10496

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN, ASEAN

SUBJECT: US/ASEAN BUSINESS COUNCIL

REF: MANILA 9979

1. ASEAN CCI EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MET JUNE 16 IN SINGAPORE UNDER CHAIRMANSHIP OF PRESIDENT FRED ELIZALDE OF PHILIPPINES AND DECIDED IN PRINCIPLE TO GO AHEAD WITH ESTABLISHMENT OF ASEAN/US BUSINESS COUNCIL. OAKLEY JOHNSON OF CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF USA (COCUSA), THEN CALLED ON ELIZALDE AND ASEAN CCI STAFFER JOSEPH CHEN JUNE 20 IN MANILA TO DISCUSS PROJECT.

2. OAKLEY JOHNSON CALLED AT EMBASSY JUNE 21 TO INFORM US OF PROGRESS OF SUBJECT UNDERTAKING. HE TOLD US HE HAD PROVIDED DRAFT PROPOSAL TO ELIZALDE FOR CONSIDERATION. PROPOSAL PROVIDES FOR ASEAN/US BUSINESS COUNCIL OF 100 MEMBERS, DIVIDED EQUALLY BETWEEN U.S. AND FIVE ASEAN COUNTRIES (TEN EACH). SPONSORSHIP WOULD BE SHARED BY COCUSA AND ASEAN CCI. ELIZALDE AGREED IN GENERAL WITH PROPOSAL.

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3. COCUSA BOARD OF DIRECTORS WILL MEET IN NOVEMBER TO REVIEW A SPECIFIC PROPOSAL AND START ORGANIZING THE UNITED STATES SECTION OF THE COUNCIL, INCLUDING THE ELECTION OF A CHAIRMAN AND OTHER OFFICERS. THE FIRST MEETING OF THE COUNCIL IS TENTATIVELY SET FOR MARCH 1979 IN MANILA. IT IS EXPECTED THAT THE SECOND, IN 1980, WILL

BE HELD IN WASHINGTON, AND THE THIRD IN SINGAPORE WHERE
THE ASEAN CCI SECRETARIAT WOULD MOVE IN 1981.

4. JOHNSON WILL BRIEF THE DEPARTMENT ON HIS RETURN TO
WASHINGTON. COMMENT: JOHNSON SAID HE HAD CONSULTED WITH
DEPARTMENT PRIOR TO HIS RECENT TRIP AND HAD ASKED THAT
WE BE INFORMED, BUT THE ONLY WORD WE HAD OF HIS VISIT
CAME FROM THE AMCHAM HERE (YESTERDAY). WE WOULD APPRE-
CIATE BEING INFORMED ABOUT HIS FUTURE VISITS, AS JOHNSON
HAS BEEN EFFECTIVE AND COOPERATIVE IN KEEPING BOTH THE
DEPARTMENT AND THE EMBASSIES INFORMED OF HIS ACTIVITIES.
END COMMENT. MURPHY

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